



City of Grand Rapids

City hosts Pitch Night to seek new ideas to reduce neighborhood violence

SAFE Taskforce to fund new and creative ways to stop violence

11/17/17: GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Have a great way to end violence in Grand Rapids, but don't have the means to make it happen? Now's your chance! The Safe Alliances for Everyone (SAFE) Taskforce wants to hear your idea at its Pitch and Highlight Night on Tuesday, Dec. 5. The Pitch Night takes place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Beacon Hill Community House Auditorium, 1919 Boston Street SE.

Participants will have five minutes to present their idea and show how it will reduce violence in Grand Rapids. Ideas must address issues that 15 to 24-year-olds in our community face. A panel of up to five judges will review proposals and applications.

Pitch Night proposals can address the one or more of the PEACE Pillar recommendations found within the SAFE Report. SAFE recognized five important tasks to establish peace in our city:

- Prevention investment
- Eliminate violent acts
- Activate economic opportunities
- Community Engagement
- Effect Positive Change in Public Institutions (Local, County, & State)

Non-profits and individuals can submit ideas to the SAFE Taskforce by Dec. 2 [HERE](#). A copy of the SAFE Report can be found on grandrapidsmi.gov.

3rd Ward Commissioner and SAFE Taskforce Chair Senita Lenear said nonprofits will compete for up to \$5,000 to support their violence reduction efforts. Individuals are also eligible to compete for up to \$500 to support their concepts. The Taskforce will fund up to three organizations and three individuals.

"Finding ways to reduce gun violence in Grand Rapids is the responsibility of everyone who lives or works here," Commissioner Lenear said. "The SAFE Taskforce wants to promote and assist those who bring a fresh perspective to fighting this issue. We're looking forward to listening to these pitches and learning about new proposals."

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